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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 002724

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/07/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [VE](#) [EU](#) [NL](#)

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/VENEZUELA: CHAVEZ NOT INVITED TO THE HAGUE

REF: SECSTATE 186100

Classified By: POLCOUNS Andrew J. Schofer for Reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

11. (C) On October 7, POLOFF raised reftel concerns regarding Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's upcoming visit to Europe with Dimitri Vogelaar (Senior Desk Officer for Venezuela, MFA). Vogelaar said he was aware that Chavez planned to attend the Ibero-American Summit in Salamanca, Spain. He had also heard that Chavez might visit Paris and later attend a seminar on Latin American development in Lombardy, Italy. Vogelaar assured POLOFF that the Dutch have not invited Chavez to the Netherlands and do not expect him to visit The Hague.

12. (C) POLOFF asked Vogelaar about Dutch FM Bot's planned visit to Venezuela. Vogelaar responded that Bot had not yet received an official invitation from Chavez, but had been invited by Venezuelan VP Rangel for a meeting to be held on either October 19 or 20. Although it was unclear whether Bot would meet with Chavez during the visit, Vogelaar said Bot planned in any case to deliver a tough message to the Venezuelans about their unacceptable meddling in Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles.

BLAKEMAN